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Agenda item 86

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 86 (see A/57/531, para. 2). Action on proposals not related to a particular sub-item was taken at the 38th and 42nd meetings, on 20 November and 10 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.38 and 42).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.49 and A/C.2/57/L.65

2. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Year of Mountains, 2002" (A/C.2/57/L.49). Subsequently, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malta, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft, which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/57/531 and Add.1-5.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/189 of 20 December 2000,

"*Recognizing* chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular paragraph 40 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable mountain development,

"*Recognizing also* the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of twenty-nine countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and sixteen organizations from the major groups, as a very promising approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable mountain development,

"*Taking note* of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;

"2. *Welcomes* the success achieved during the International Year of Mountains, which catalysed a strengthened interest for sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions at all levels from the global, regional and subregional levels, at which nine major international meetings were held, in Bhutan, Ecuador, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru and Switzerland, to the national and local levels, at which innumerable activities and initiatives were undertaken, and recommends that the experience gained during the Year be valued in the context of an appropriate follow-up;

"3. *Notes with appreciation* the constructive role played by the national committees for the International Year of Mountains established in seventy-four countries, as well as the commitment demonstrated by thousands of individuals, civil society and academic institutions, intergovernmental bodies and Governments;

"4. *Also notes with appreciation* the efficient discharge by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of its role as the task manager for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund;

"5. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects resulting from the International Year of Mountains;

"6. *Invites* all interested parties to consider joining the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

"7. *Notes* that a consultative process is to be initiated with all stakeholders in the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, in particular donor countries, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting all stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership, including through the establishment of a secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and financed through existing resources and additional voluntary contributions;

"8. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency working group on mountains and references made in this regard in section 6 of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, with a view to further promoting and implementing sustainable mountain development;

"9. *Underlines* that mountains provide freshwater for more than one half of humanity and, in this connection, encourages the highest possible synergy between the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains and the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, including in the domain of freshwater conservation;

"10. *Decides* to designate 11 December as International Mountain Day, as from 11 December 2003, and encourages the international community to organize on this day events at all levels to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the achievements of the International Year of Mountains, with a special focus on lessons learned and on policy recommendations for sustainable mountain development, under the sub-item entitled 'Sustainable mountain development' of the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/57/L.65), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.49.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.65 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.49 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Year of Mountains, 2002

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolution 55/189 of 20 December 2000,

Recognizing chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable mountain development,

Noting the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of twenty-nine countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and sixteen organizations from the major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable mountain development,

Taking note of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

1. *Takes note* of the interim report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the success achieved during the International Year of Mountains, during which numerous activities and initiatives were undertaken at all levels, including major international meetings held in Bhutan, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, India, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru and Switzerland, which catalysed a strengthened interest for sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions;

3. *Recommends* that the experience gained during the International Year of Mountains be valued in the context of an appropriate follow-up;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the effective role played by Governments, as well as major groups, academic institutions and international organizations and agencies, in the activities related to the International Year of Mountains, including the establishment of seventy-four national committees;

5. *Also notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund;

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/57/188.

6. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to the local, national and international programmes and projects resulting from the International Year of Mountains;

7. *Invites* the international community and other relevant partners to consider joining the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

8. *Notes* that all stakeholders in the voluntary International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions have initiated a consultative process, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership, including, inter alia, consideration of the offer made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to host a secretariat financed through voluntary contributions;

9. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains, and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations, consistent with the mandates specified in the Bishkek Mountain Platform;

10. *Decides* to designate 11 December as International Mountain Day, as from 11 December 2003, and encourages the international community to organize on this day events at all levels to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the achievements of the International Year of Mountains, under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".